Oklahoma Chess Monthly

JUNE 2019

Chess News and Chess History for Oklahoma

Bran Whitcomb 1979-2019

In This Issue:

• FKB Memorial
• RRSO XVII
• Donaldson Lecture
• Bran Whitcomb
• Plus News Bites, Game of the Month, Puzzles, Top 25 List, Tournament Reports, and more.

Editor's Note – This month was a busy one for chess in Oklahoma and we have many feature articles and lots of games to share as a result. These include:
Red River Shoot Out #17 – story, photos, games.
FKB Memorial –story, photos, games.
IM John Donaldson's lecture in Tulsa,

… plus first up has to be the sudden and shocking news of the passing of another one of our long-time chess friends…

Bran Whitcomb: 1979-2019

by Author Author

Another popular Okie chess veteran has died – Bran Whitcomb. He passed away on May 16, of a heart attack, at home. He was only 40 years old, and leaves behind a wife and six children.

This remembrance will focus mainly on his chess, even though he had many facets to his unique personality.

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Bran Whitcomb with his family.

Bran Whitcomb was a loyal friend, even though he could be exasperating at times because he loved a good debate. He was very well read and was quite analytical. Sometimes he would take up a contrary position he didn't really believe in just for the fun of arguing for it anyway. He was a good debater, knew well the classic rules of good logic, and could create a lot of frustration in his opponent by his clever use of analogies or "framing" techniques. Yet he would also always inject a lot of humor into the debate, and seldom let it get too personal.

With this kind of logical personality it is not surprising he was drawn to chess in the late 1990s as a young man. But his route to tournament play was highly unusual.

At that time there was a pool hall in East Tulsa where all the big money in that underground sport hung out. For some reason it had a chess table, and Bran would spend time there hustling the pool hustlers at chess. He didn't play tournaments until 2004. His first rating was 1473; rather high for a first rating and showing he had good skill behind his hustling techniques.

A typical posting on Facebook about Bran was this one by Anthony Paolercio:

"Bran Whitcomb you were an amazing friend and one of the nicest, most well spoken people I have ever met. I will always value our good times at the old chess club and the memories of laughter, joking, and debates will always be cherished. You will be very missed old friend." — Anthony

He was brought into organized chess by the "Rift" event of 2003 when scholastic chess interests took over the OCA. For several years afterward while a war of words was going on between the factions, Bran was one of the leading combatants on the Oklahoma Chess Forum, where he liked to "stir the pudding" as I called it at the time. This gave him a certain infamous reputation among those on the other side, who might still be smarting from some of his sarcasm. (It got pretty ugly in many ways on those forums in those days.)

Even so, his main motivation was he always wanted to help improve traditional quality chess in Oklahoma. Frequently he proposed ideas for new types of tournaments, and grand-prix-style events. His primary interest in recent years was to create a statewide chess league, which he pointed out would have many benefits if we could make it work, including the creation of badly-needed new active tournament directors. But although some of the proposals were tried, new ideas like this need someone who could be behind them pushing hard to make them a reality, and Bran did not have the time for that given the needs of his growing family.

He was a Christian at heart and could expound upon theology with the best of them. Several

people have remarked that he helped them get through tough times with his commentary on religion and good advice.

Handwriting analysis was among his many skills; but mostly he is remembered as a great conversationalist.

Bran and his wife of 15 years, Brandy Wheeler-Whitcomb, (who was also a pretty good chess player who has played in tournaments) had six children — all girls.

With each new arrival Bran had less and less time for chess and spent more and more time working to make financial ends meet. He worked at the Port of Catoosa where his job was to inspect barges and their loads. He always worked overtime and put in 70+ hours a week, every week. (He made himself indispensible to that operation; I don't know how they will be able to replace him.) No doubt this was a factor in his sudden heart attack at only age 40. Working so much without a break is hard on the body.

Even as his family was growing, from 2004-2012 he still found time to take on some beginners as chess students, for which he didn't charge much. I always chuckled when he described his Zen-like teaching approach, spending the first few sessions talking about the geometry of the pieces and visualizing their movement before he would let the student actually try playing a game.

As tournament play took a backseat he dropped his students and played only one tournament in the five years from 2014-2018. But early in 2019 he told me of his resolution to get back into chess, and he did play in the Tulsa ConSat Open last March. There he got an upset win over C. Johnson.

"Bran is back!" I exclaimed. It was nice to have him around again. He even wanted to write an article for the Oklahoma Chess Monthly and we had a brief discussion about it. It was going to be about the unique movements of the chess knight. Bran was the only Oklahoma player I know who had memorized how to do the "Knight's Tour" on the chessboard (where you start in the corner and visit every square without ever landing on the same square twice). The last player to do that in Oklahoma was probably George Koltanowsky when he was doing exhibitions here in the 1950s.

But despite the successful return to chess in March it was back to the port for more overtime, and more time away from the game. I believe he was hoping to play in the FKB Memorial May 18-19 and other events this summer, but then on May 17th we heard the awful news of his sudden passing.

In future issues I hope to reprint some of Bran's best games, and also reprint his article about the Vancura Defense from many years ago that he did for Frank Berry.

Donations to a Memorial Fund for badly-needed aid to Bran's family can be made here: https://www.facebook.com/donate/1026458310894110/

IM John Donaldson Gives Lecture on his USA Team Captain Adventures

by Tom Braunlich

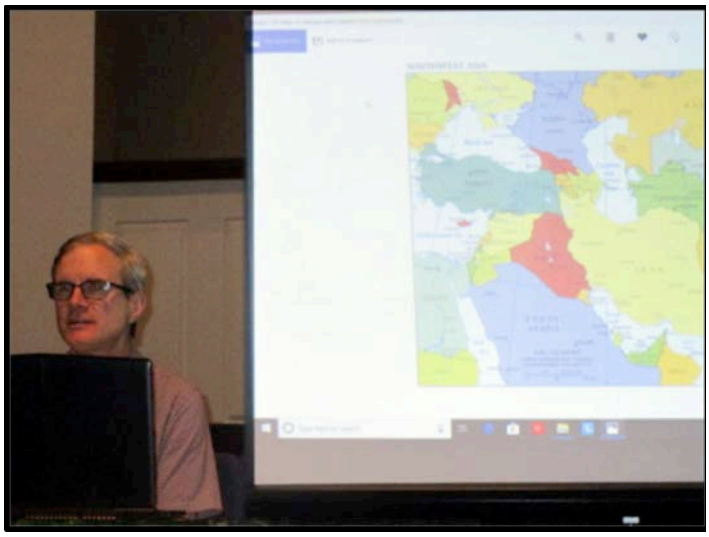
"Honorary Okie" IM John Donaldson, captain of the USA Chess Team, gave a deep-dive lecture in Tulsa on May 17th about his chess adventures working intimately with players like Caruana, Nakamura, So, Shankland, etc.

Donaldson has been team captain for the USA over 20 times, including the gold-medal USA team at the 2016 Chess Olympiad in Baku, Azerbaijan. He showed and discussed photos from his two most recent captain excursions; at the World Team Championship earlier this year in Astana, Kazakhstan, and the 43rd Chess Olympiad last Fall in Batumi, Georgia (in which the USA tied for first but lost on tiebreaks).

He said the main job of the captain nowadays is to select the lineup, including when to use a substitute player for one of the stars who may be getting tired. He compared the strategy involved here to a pro football coach calling a key play in the Super Bowl — do you hand off the ball to your reliable veteran running back, or do you take a chance on a surprise pass to your promising rookie?

The other job of the captain is to encourage and maintain team camaraderie for the players. Each night the USA men and women teams would have dinner together. Donaldson said the USA team is among the best at teamwork, even though they are rivals when it comes to individual play at U.S. championships.

For spectators interested in attending a world championship of some kind, Donaldson recommended the team championships more than the individual championship matches. "The matches are just one game a day and you never know if it will be a short draw." But the team events feature hundreds of players battling in an arena…. True, you can't wander among the boards to spectate directly anymore, because of security concerns, but there is plenty of action to watch from the



stands or commentary rooms. Unfortunately he said most of these events are held far away from the USA in eastern Europe where cities can justify the $10-$15 million price tag due to the cost of providing rooms and meals for teams of men and women from 170+ countries.

Donaldson had traveled to Tulsa from his home in Berkeley, California, to play in the 3rd Frank K Berry Memorial in honor of his old friend, having played here in Oklahoma many times in the past. He is also recently retired from 20 years as director of the oldest chess club in America, in San Francisco at the Mechanics Institute.

The lecture was sponsored by Jim Berry and the "Chess Fools of Tulsa" club, and held at the Harvard Avenue Baptist Church in Tulsa.

Signing autographs.

3rd Annual

Frank K Berry Memorial:

Great Turnout at a Great New Venue

by Tom Braunlich

IM Advait Patel topped the 3rd FKB Memorial, held May 18-19 in Okmulgee at the OSU Institute of Technology, with a 4½-½ score ($800 prize) ahead of IM John Donaldson (4-1, $250), and a field of 55 players.

The players and parents agreed the venue at the school's Student Union was packed with pleasant amenities that made the experience very comfortable and easy, including a cafeteria open most of the weekend right next door to the playing hall, lounges, games, skittles rooms, walking paths, nice parking, and more. The only slight drawback to the site was that the nearest hotel is a mile away, but it was agreed we should have more events at this venue in the future. Thanks to Raymond Griffin, who teaches at the school, for securing this site for us!

Jim Berry said he thought this was the first time we had played at this OSU site in Okmulgee, but Raymond said we had an Oklahoma Quick Chess Championship directed by Steve Wharry here in the mid-90s. The online record was checked and not only was Raymond correct, but the winner of that event was … Jim Berry!

Spectators watch the tense final moves of the battle between the two IMs in round 3. See page 12 for this game annotated.

TOP 25

For JUNE 2019

Top 25 Active Oklahoma Players				
	Player	This Month	Change	
1	Advait Patel	2565	0	
2	Howard Zhong	2307	0	
3	Mark Hulsey	2222	0	
4	Bart Gibbons	2217	0	
5	Tom Braunlich	2200	0	
6	Sergey Galant	2188	0	
7	Chibuzo C Ilonze	2107	0	▲
8	Tom Patton	2096	-12	▼
9	Adonis Turner	2084	0	
10	John Cope	2084	0	
11	Anthony Paolercio	2080	0	
12	Veronika Zilajeva	2078	6	▲
13	Charles D Unruh	2072	0	▼
14	Matt Dalthorp	2063	24	▲
15	David Luscomb	2045	0	
16	Michael Nugent	2042	0	
17	Charles M Unruh	2033	0	▲
18	James Long	2018	-21	▼
19	Chuck Johnson	2010	-38	▼
20	Jeff Colbert	2008	0	
21	Ryan Amburgy	1988	-17	
22	Logan Zachare	1977	-9	
23	Joe Dean Veal	1976	11	▲
24	Neil Naputo Sr	1956	0	▲
25	Stephen Gehly	1947	0	▲

Player of the Month

JIM HOLLINGSWORTH

Tireless organizer of the Red River Shootout for many years, he puts on a great party for us Texicans and Okies, and first class.

The highlight of the event no doubt was the clash between the two IMs that occurred in round 3. IM Donaldson (who like Patel has two GM norms under his wing) has called young Patel "The Real Deal" as a player who could go far in chess. So he was especially pleased at the exciting game that resulted in a complex draw by repetition. He annotates the game for us this issue, as well as other games from the event.

IM John Donaldson.

Matt Dalthorp nicked Donaldson for a draw in round 4 to provide the opportunity for Patel to take the lead.

Dalthorp-Patel round 5.

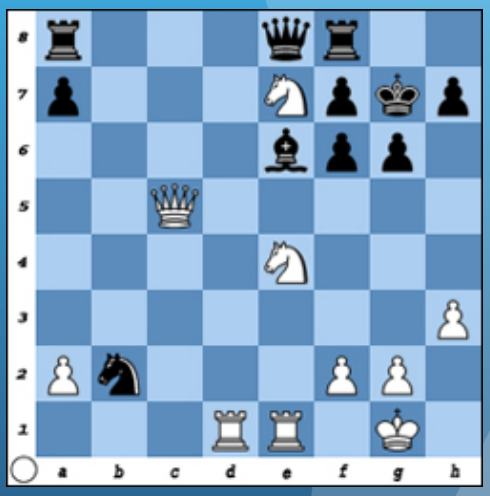
After a slow start Tom Patton won 3 games in a row to take 3rd place with 3½ and the $200 Expert prize, ahead of NMs Bill Orton and Tom Braunlich who scored 3-2.

The $200 A prize was split between Texan Cole Blakeman and OU student Martin Carlsen (both 3-2 with excellent events).

PUZZLES

Answers Next Page

White to move and win. (Medium)



White to move and win. (Difficult)
HINT: the first move is 1. Nxf6.
Your task is to prove how it works.

The tough Reserve section was won by 10th-ranked Zade Mahayni (4½ - $250) whose 1391 pre-event rating shot way up over 1500 as a consequence. The C-prize was split between Kelvin Xie, Gabriel Teubner, and David Morgan. The D-prize was split between Chris Amburgy, Maxwell Xie, Rahul Pai, and David Wood Jr.

The calming susurrus of this waterfall in the lobby greeted the players.

The "Future GMs" section (as TD Jim Berry renamed the Novice section during the event) was won by Raymond Jiang (4½ - $200).

He was held to a draw by Elizabeth Braddy who thus tied for the $150 U1000 prize with Lafayette Chen (both at 3½ points).

Raymond Jiang (l) vs

Elizabeth Braddy, round 5.

Preston Koloen (r) won a nice game over Joshua Li in round 5.

Full crosstables are online here:
http://www.uschess.org/msa/XtblMain.php?201905196272.0-14472386

Bill Orton won the "Best Trap" Prize. See it and other games from this event, below.

Answers to the Puzzles

(1) The weak dark squares around black's king are ripe for a combination. The idea 1. Qh6+ comes close: 1... Kxh6 2. Bf8+ Kh5 3. Be2+ but black prevents the mate with 3... Qg4. Therefore, we can stop that defense with a preparatory move at the start: 1. R1b4!!, axb4 and now the sacrifice does lead to mate. 2. Qh6+, Kxh6 3. Bf8+, Kh5 4. Be2 mate.

(2) Submitted by Anthony Paolercio, from a game he was watching online by GM Eric Hansen.
1. Nxf6! Kxf6 2. Qe5+ Kxe7 (White is now down two pieces but the black K is very exposed.
3. Qg5+! f6 4. Rxe6+! Kf7
(4... Kxe6 5. Qd5+ Ke7 6. Re1 mate)
5. Qxf6+ Kg8 6. Rxe8! (A hard move to see in advance, in the sense that it pins the rook on f8 thus preventing it from capturing white's Q in response). 6...Raxe8 7. Qxb2 and wins.

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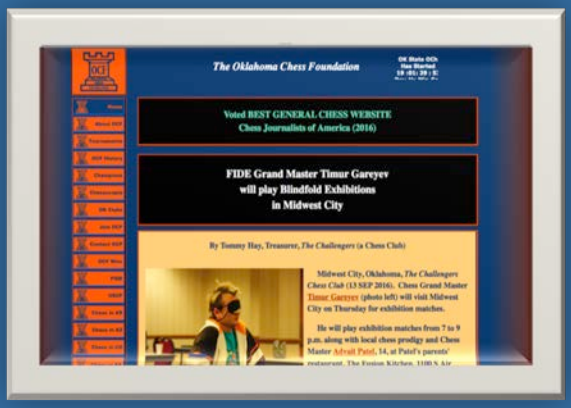
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FIDE Grand Master Timur Gareyev
will play Blindfold Exhibitions
in Midwest City

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Holding the Line at Red River Shoot Out XVII
Oklahoma tops Texas 24 to 22

by Victor Yaward, Chess Reporter

(Davis, Oklahoma, April 27) — With the score 23-21 in the waning moments, (and a 23-23 tie enabling Texas to tie the match still a possibility, allowing them to retain their bragging rights), Shaun Graham-Bowcaster came through for the Okies by scoring the 24th point to clinch RRSO XVII. Final score 24-22. This was Phil Stegall's first victory as Oklahoma Team Captain.

Oklahoma, still smarting from last year's shellacking by Texas, played with a purpose in Round One. Oklahoma led from the start and dominated at halftime 14 to 9. However the Texans, inspired by their charismatic leader, would not quit. TX team captain Christopher Joseph Wood quietly stood up from his game and gazed at his team members still doing battle. Almost in unison the Texans looked up at their leader and nodded their heads in a veritable "Leonidas" moment. Texan pride took over. Oklahoma's lead grew smaller. 14 to 10… 14 to 11…. The Okies would win one. The Texans would win two. The Okies still needed to win by one and that task kept getting harder and harder.

With only two games remaining, Oklahoma's Shaun Graham-Bowcaster pushed his team across the finish line in an English Opening battle with Russ Heise.

Two-game mini-matches were contested by a total of 46 players. Chief Organizer Jim Hollingsworth and the RRSO staff did an outstanding job of recruiting players and building balanced lineups for this year's match.

"I'm real proud of our team," said OK team captain Phil Stegall, "especially our rookies on the bottom boards, Jake Williams, Ismael Kissinger, Fisher Smith, Anna Boevers, Elizabeth Braddy, and Zion Wright. Their combined 12 to 0 sweep of some very tough Texans made all

Front Row (left to right): Wayne Hatcher; Fisher Smith; Elizabeth Braddy; Phil Stegall; Zion Wright; Bruce Wells; Bill Sparks; Second Row (left to right): Anna Boevers; Paul Hodgden; Larry Deputy; Mike Tubbs; Jayden Dewbre; Eric Jones; Third Row (left to right): Logan Zachare; Shaun Graham-Bowcaster; Curtis Williams; Jim Berry; Jimmy Nazario; Ishmael Kissinger; Leon Toliver; Jake Williams; Harold Brown; Missing are Roy Cram, Jake Ferguson and Rubin Wells. Photo by Josie Brady.

Front Row (left to right): Cole Blakeman; Austen Green; Carmen Chairez; Chris Wood; Randy Dixon; Jim Anderau; Second Row (left to right): Sheryl McBroom; Rafael Llanos; Mario Cabello; Ahmad Nazib; Jedwayne Bowser; Nicole Niemi; Jim Hollingsworth; Carol Heise; Russ Heise; Third Row (left to right): Jim Kirk; Dean Marks; Troy Gillispie; Doug Schwetke; Dean Cullen; Bob Curtis; Tom Crane; Rick Gran. Photo by Mike Tubbs.

Red River Shootout XVII
Davis, OK 27 April 2019

Oklahoma (At Home)				24 - 22		Texas (On Road)		
Bd	Player	Pre	Post	Score		Pre	Post	Player
01	Logan Zachare	1986	1977	0.0	2.0	2250	2256	Austen Green
02	Wayne Hatcher	1950	1952	1.0	1.0	1975	1974	Jim Kirk
03	Paul Hodgden	1946	1935	0.5	1.5	1969	1980	Rafael Llanos
04	Harold Brown	1919	1913	0.5	1.5	2024	2029	Cole Blakeman
05	Jim Berry	1834	1805	0.0	2.0	1834	1863	Nicole Niemi
06	Shaun Graham-Bowcaster	1800	1821	2.0	0.0	1696	1673	Russ Heise
07	Mike Tubbs	1800	1800	1.0	1.0	1661	1674	Carmen Chairez
08	Curtis Williams	1706	1699	1.0	1.0	1629	1637	Dean Cullen
09	Jake Ferguson	1726	1685	0.0	2.0	1607	1657	Jedwayne Bowser
10	Bruce Wells	1518	1502	0.5	1.5	1545	1560	Doug Schwetke
11	Larry Deputy	1614	1601	1.0	1.0	1468	1484	Tom Crane
12	Leon Toliver	1602	1588	1.0	1.0	1451	1467	Bob Curtis
13	Bill Sparks	1568	1543	0.5	1.5	1502	1528	Dean Marks
14	Eric Jones	1724	1700	0.0	2.0	1806	1828	Jim Hollingsworth
15	Rubin Wells	1517	1500	0.0	2.0	1285	1335	Randy Dixon
16	Jake Williams	1507	1528	2.0	0.0	1335	1312	Mario Cabello
17	Jimmy Nazario	1329	1309	1.0	1.0	1147	1170	Chris Wood
18	Ishmael Kissinger	1250	1282	2.0	0.0	1151	1116	Troy Gillispie
19	Fisher Smith	1245	1295	2.0	0.0	1110	1098	Jim Anderau
20	Anna Boevers	1207	1235	2.0	0.0	1024	1024	Ahmed Nazib
21	Phil Stegall	1152	1159	2.0	0.0	0709	0700	Rick Gran
22	Elizabeth Braddy	0884	0934	2.0	0.0	0470	0470	Carol Heise
23	Zion Wright	0101	0151	2.0	0.0	0170	0170	Sheryl McBroom

the difference. We're really looking forward to their return in RRSO XVIII."

Oklahoma Chess Foundation President Jim Berry capped off the accolades with, "Those Texans played hard, made a spirited comeback, and helped create one of the best matches since RRSO III (another close Oklahoma victory). In the end it all came back to one thing, 'Don't mess with Oklahoma!'"

After the Victory Dinner, Austen Green and Logan Zachare scored a 5-0 sweep of the Bughouse tournament. The loquacious and previously undefeated Tubbs-Hollingsworth duo was one of their most satisfying conquests.

Next year's Red River Shoot Out, the 18th in the series, is scheduled for Saturday, April 18, 2020 in Davis, Oklahoma. A special tax-free "chess rate" is being negotiated with the hotel with a Texas Hold 'em tournament on Friday night.

Recruiting Season starts January 15th. Details will be on the Oklahoma Chess Foundation's and RRSOCHESS websites.

Team captains Phil Steagall (OK), and Chris Wood (TX).

GAMES FROM RRSO-XVII:

Kirk, Jim (1975)
Hatcher, Wayne (1950)
Red River Shootout XVII Davis, Oklahoma (1.2), 27.04.2019
[TB]
1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4.Bc4 Bg7 5.Nf3 c6 6.0-0 0-0 7.Bb3 Qc7 8.h3 Nbd7 9.Re1 e5 10.Be3 b6 11.Qd2 Bb7 12.Bh6 Rad8 13.Bxg7 Kxg7 14.Ng5 Rde8 15.f4 a6 16.a3 Re7 17.Re2 Rfe8 18.Rae1 h6 19.Nf3 exd4 20.Qxd4 c5 21.Qd3 b5!

Wayne's play here is right out of Nimzovich's "My System." First the white e-pawn was restrained from advancing, and then it became a target. Black's last move threatens ...b4 undermining the defense of the e4 target. 22.Bd5 Blocking the attack on the e-pawn. But now Wayne unleashes a long "exchanging combination" that removes all the defenders and leaves white's weak e-pawn sitting on d5, where black can subsequently win it: 22...Nxd5 23.Nxd5 Bxd5 24.exd5 [Unfortunately for white, 24.Qxd5 is met by 24...Nf6! 25.Qd3 Nh5! 26.f5 *(26.Qd2 Ng3)* 26...Nf4 27.Qc3+ Kh7 and black is also winning material.] 24...Rxe2 25.Rxe2 Rxe2 26.Qxe2 Exchanging operation complete, but now the pawn on d5 is impossible to defend. It falls and black wins the rest of the game nicely. 26...Nb6 27.Qd3 Qb7 28.Qc3+ f6 29.Qa5 Nxd5 30.Qd2 Qc6 31.Nh4 Ne7 32.Qe2 Qd7 33.g4 Kf7 34.Qe3 Qe6 35.Kf2 Qxe3+ 36.Kxe3 d5 37.Nf3 Ke6 38.h4 Nc6 39.c3 a5 40.b3 f5 41.g5 h5 42.Kd3 c4+ 43.bxc4 dxc4+ 44.Kc2 Kd5 45.Nd2 Kc5 46.Nf3 b4 47.axb4+ axb4 48.cxb4+ Nxb4+ 49.Kc3 Nd5+ 0-1

(More games in the GAMES section)

The hard-fought clash between the two IMs was the highlight of the FKB Memorial. Here IM John Donaldson annotates the game for us in depth (with a few additional remarks by me).

Donaldson, John W (2410)
Patel, Advait (2565)
3rd Frank Berry Memorial Stillwater (3), [A26] 18.05.2019
[Notes by IM John Donaldson]

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.g3 Bg7 4.Bg2 0-0 5.0-0 d6 6.Nc3 Nc6 7.d3 e5

TB- It should be noted here that John wrote a book recommending this "Closed Sicilian Reversed" structure for white called A Strategic Opening Repertoire in 1998. (I believe it was updated with Carsten Hansen in 2015.) It concentrates on white's general plans in this structure, using lots of annotated games. So John knows this line very well and often plays it himself. It is particularly good against King's Indian players like Advait.

8.Rb1 a5 9.a3

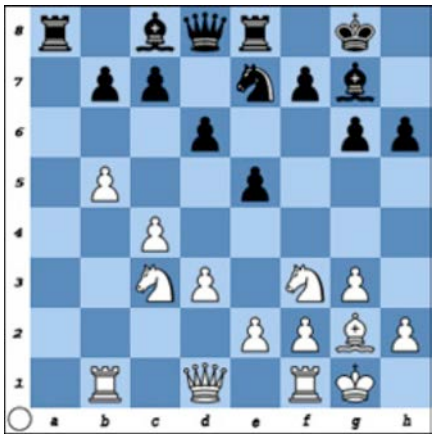
Now Black has many different schemes of development (9...Nh5, 9... Bd7, 9...Bf5, 9...h6, and 9...Nd4.) The latter two and the text are considered the best as they focus on the center.

9...Re8 10.Bg5

This envisions a bishop for knight trade to gain control of d5 and prepare the advance b2-b4-b5.

- 10.Ne1 Ne7 11.b4 axb4 12.axb4 d5 13.cxd5 Nexd5 14.Bd2 Nxc3 15.Bxc3 Nd5 16.Bd2 Be6 17.Nc2 Qd7 18.Ne3 Ra2 19.Nxd5 Bxd5 20.Bxd5 Qxd5 21.Bc3 Rea8 22.Re1 R8a3 23.Qc1 c6 24.Bb2 Ra4 25.Bc3 R4a3 26.Bb2 Rb3 27.Bc3 h5 28.e4 Qe6 29.Ra1 Bh6 30.Qxh6 Rxc3 31.Rxa2 Qxa2 32.Qe3 Qa3 33.Qb6 Rxd3 34.Qxb7 Qc3 35.Rb1 Rd2 36.b5?? Qc5 37.Rf1 cxb5 38.h4 b4 39.Kg2 Qd4 0-1 Bajovic (2270)-Donaldson,J Kecskemet 1980.;
- 10.b4 axb4 11.axb4 e4! is one of Black's ideas behind 9...Re8.

10...h6 11.Bxf6 Bxf6 12.b4 axb4 13.axb4 Bg7 14.b5 Ne7



[14...Nd4 15.Nxd4 exd4 16.Nd5 is known to be a little better for White as the opening of the e-file doesn't quite compensate for the doubled d-pawns.]

15.Qc2

[15.Nd2 is met by 15...e4! when capturing the e-pawn with either knight is met by 16...f5 winning a piece.; 15.Qb3 is a popular alternative to the text.]

15...Be6 16.Nd2

TB-- John doesn't comment on this move, but it is an example of the subtleties. White attacks the b7 pawn, forcing a response. If however white had played a slow move, say Re1, black could have had time to use Spassky's plan of putting his pawn on b6 and his R on c8 (protecting c7 pawn), which frees up lots of time for black to create a pawnstorm attack on the kingside.

16...c6 17.Ra1

[17.Rb4 preparing to double rooks on the b-file is another idea.]

17...Qc7

[#] Black refrains from 17...d5 which while definitely playable does activate White's pieces.

18.Rfc1 f5 19.Nb3 Kh7 20.Qb1 Bg8

[20...f4 21.bxc6 bxc6 22.Nd5! is White's idea.]

21.e4 fxe4 22.Bxe4 Rf8 23.Rxa8 Rxa8 24.Bg2 Qb6 25.bxc6 bxc6

26.Nd2 Qa7 27.Qb4 Rf8 28.Rf1

[28.Nf3 d5 29.cxd5 cxd5 30.Nb5 maintaining equal chances, was another option.]

28...d5 29.cxd5 cxd5 30.Nb5 Qd7 31.Rc1 [31.Rb1] 31...Rb8

32.Qd6 Qxb5 33.Qxe7 Rb7 34.Qa3 e4!?

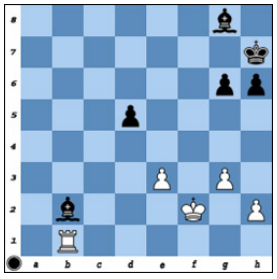
TB- This move, with both players approaching some mild time trouble, initiates complications which Donaldson is able to handle, so I asked after the game if it was a mistake. Advait said he thought it was necessary as otherwise his center pawns are weak and he has nothing. This insight is surprising to me, as black has 2Bs that are supporting those pawns, and they control the center (even though I agree they aren't mobile). I think black could play something like 34...Qb2 35.Qxb2 Rxb2 36.Nf3 Rb7 (36...Rb3 37.Rc7!= is a line that would prove Advait's point about his weak pawns.) 37.Re1 Re7 and I think black has a small edge that he might have nevertheless held for a long time, going for a Magnus-Carlsen-style win. Clearly however Patel thought it was better to go for it with ...e4.

35.Rb1 Bb2 36.Qf8?!

[Advait pointed out in the post mortem that 36.Qa8 Rb8 *(36...exd3 37.Bf1* with White recapturing on d3*)* 37.Qa7+ Rb7 38.Qa8 forces a draw.]

36...Rf7

- 36...Qxd3?? 37.Rxb2 Rxb2 38.Qe7+ Kh8 39.Qf6+ wins for White.
- 36...e3! 37.fxe3 Qxd3 38.Qf2 Rf7 39.Bf3 Rxf3 40.Qxf3 Qxd2 41.Qf2 Qxf2+ 42.Kxf2



I believe this endgame should be drawn, but I lost a very similar position (same material but slightly different pawn structure) to Dmitry Gurevich in the Bar Point International in 1981 in New York City in 109 moves, blundering at the very end.

37.Qa3 Rb7 38.Qf8?!

38.Qa8 is again best. Both players were getting low on time.

(TB Note — Even in this line all is not so clear. An example of how white could lose is 38...exd3 39.Bf1 Qb6 40.Bxd3 Rf7 41.Bxg6+? *(41.Rf1=)* 41...Qxg6 42.Rxb2 Qf6!]

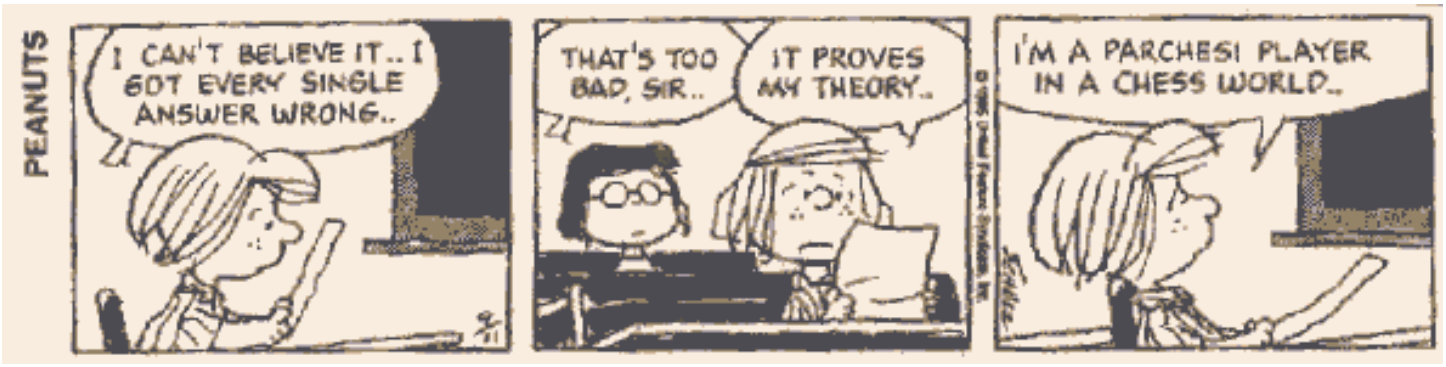
38...Rf7

[38...e3! 39.fxe3 Qxd3 transposes to the note given after Black's 36th move. 40.Qf2 Rf7 41.Bf3 Rxf3 42.Qxf3 Qxd2 43.Qf2]

39.Qa3 Rb7

and now White indicated he was going to play 40.Qf8 and a draw was agreed.

40.Qf8 ½ - ½

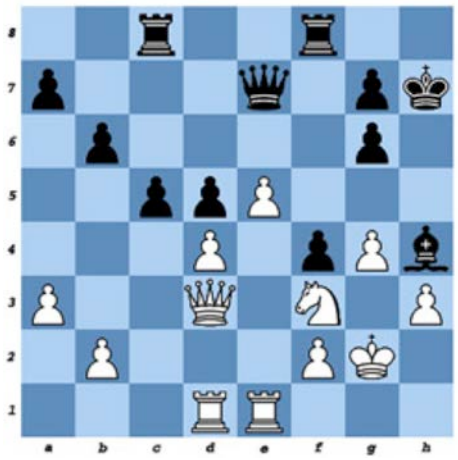

PEANUTS
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT.. I GOT EVERY SINGLE ANSWER WRONG..
THAT'S TOO BAD, SIR..
IT PROVES MY THEORY..
I'M A PARCHESI PLAYER IN A CHESS WORLD..

Orton, Bill (2200)
Amburgy, Ryan (2005) [C54]
FKB Memorial 2019 Okmulgee (2), 29.05.2019
[TB]

This game was awarded the "Best Trap Prize" ($30) donated by Mike Parker, in honor of Frank Berry who was well known for his playful catchphrase that he would shout out at the beginning of each tournament, "Remember, not all trappers wear fur hats!"

1.e4 e5 2.d4 exd4 3.Nf3 Nc6 4.Bc4 Bc5 5.c3 Nf6 6.e5 d5 7.Bb5 Ne4 8.cxd4 Bb4+ 9.Bd2 Nxd2 10.Nbxd2 Bd7 11.0-0 0-0 12.Bd3 Bg4 13.h3 Bh5 14.g4 Bg6 15.Nb3 f5 16.a3 Be7 17.Nh2 f4 18.Bxg6 hxg6 19.Qd3 Kh7 20.Nf3 Qd7 21.Kg2 Nd8 22.Rh1 b6 23.Rad1 Nf7 24.Nc1 Ng5 25.Nxg5+ Bxg5 26.Kf3 Bh4 27.Ne2 Rae8 28.Rhe1 Qe7 29.Ng1 c5 30.Kg2 Rc8 31.Nf3

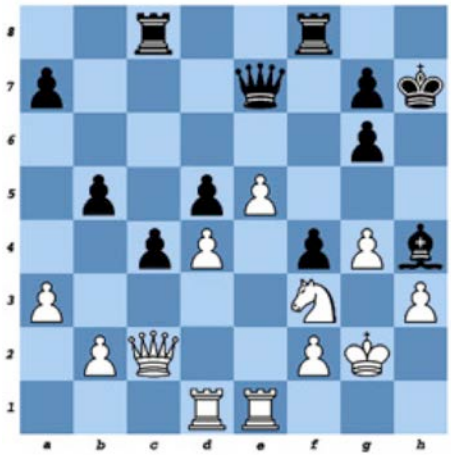
The Trap.



For the last few moves veteran master Bill Orton has spent a lot of time to move his N to blockade on f3, and in the meantime black has prepared counterplay with very natural expansion moves on the queenside. What would be more natural now for black than to gain more queenside space where he can generate a passed pawn? But this is the trap. Black continued:

31...c4 32.Qc2 b5?

[32...Rc6 was necessary. But a good trap tempts the opponent to play a natural move like ...b5.]



33.e6!

Suddenly we see Orton was doing more than blockading the pawn on f3 with his knight. It is also attacking the B on h4, and Orton intends to trap it by cutting off its life support from the black Q with the moves Re5! and then g4-g5 or perhaps Rh5+. Surprisingly there is nothing black can do about this:

33...Rc6 34.Re5 Kh6

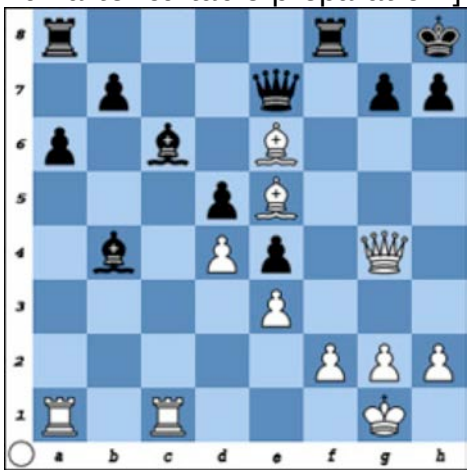
[34...Rxe6 35.Rde1 Rxe5 36.Rxe5 Qd8 37.Nxh4 Qxh4 38.Rh5+! Ouch!]

35.g5+ Bxg5 36.Nxg5 f3+ 37.Nxf3 Rxe6 38.Qd2+ g5 39.Rde1 1-0

Carlson, Martin (1806)
Patton, Tom (2108) [D02]
3rd Frank K Berry Memorial, 18.05.2019
[Carlson, Martin]

This was my first game against Tom. I've enjoyed playing through his games in the OCQ and OCM over the years because he always

annotates them very well. In particular, I really enjoy his endgame insights, and he's a rock-solid positional player, so I knew that I was going to have a fight on my hands from start to finish. 1.d4 d5 2.Bf4 I knew that Tom was also a London player, so I was curious how he would respond to his own opening. 2...c5 3.e3 Nc6 4.c3 Nf6 5.Nd2 e6 6.Ngf3 Qb6!? Not a common move in this particular move order, but it's not bad by any means. An early Qb6 is very common for Black in the London. It asks White how he's going to protect b2. [6...Bd6 7.Bg3 is far more common.] 7.Qb3 c4 8.Qc2 Nh5 9.Bg5 f5?! I didn't care for this move since Black won't be able to develop his dark-squared bishop to d6 due to the shaky nature of the knight on h5. I also felt like it defined the pawn structure too early, and from this point on, only White would have any pawn breaks. [I expected something like 9...h6 10.Bh4 g5 11.Bg3 Nxg3 12.hxg3 to win the bishop pair. White still has good pawn play in the center though, as the e4 push will come soon, likely leaving Black with a French-type structure in the center after a future e4-e5. White's knights will be more valuable in that closed structure than the bishops, and White can even try to land his own bishop on h5.] 10.Be2 Nf6 11.Bf4 Bd7 12.0-0 Be7 13.b3 Starting queenside play. 13...cxb3 14.axb3 0-0 15.Ne5 During the game, I wanted to push c4 right here, but I didn't want to give Tom's knight free access to b4. Maybe it wasn't as big of a deal as I thought OTB, but I wanted to trade off his knight to deny him that possibility. 15...Rac8 16.Rfc1 Nxe5 17.Bxe5 a6 18.Qa2 Ne4 19.Nxe4 fxe4 20.c4 Qd8 21.cxd5 [21.b4 was even better here than on the next move. The point is that here, after the natural 21...Bc6 , White now has 22.b5 and the a-file opens for White's queen and rook, giving Black another weakness to babysit.] 21...exd5 22.b4 The pawn is immune. 22...Bc6 [22...Bxb4?? 23.Qxd5+ Kh8 24.Qxb7 and everything falls apart.] 23.Bg4 Bxb4 24.Be6+ Now my bishops make Black's like very unpleasant. 24...Kh8 25.Qe2 Now my queen is heading over to join the party. 25...Qe7 26.Qg4? [26.Bxc8 This was the right way, winning material immediately. The text gave Black a chance to neutralize my initiative.] 26...Ra8?
[Black missed his chance. The way to stay in the game was 26...Rcd8! The point is that the d-pawn needed suppot. Now, Black is just up a pawn, and even though my bishops and queen look scary, I don't have anything concrete. Black can now consider getting my bishops off the board with a future Bd6 and Bd7 after suitable preparation.]



27.Bxd5! Bd6
[The point is that 27...Bxd5 28.Rc7 is crushing, although it is interestingly enough the computer's top choice here. Still, no human wants to drop their queen in a position like this.]
28.Bxd6 Just trading the bishops and winning a pawn or two with an eternal squeeze seemed like the easiest path to victory. 28...Qxd6 29.Bxc6 bxc6 30.Qxe4 Rf6 31.Rc5 Raf8 32.f3 Rh6 33.Qe5 [I wanted to play the natural 33.h3 , but I was low on time here, and I thought I might be lost after the shocking 33...Rxh3 34.gxh3 Qg3+ 35.Kf1 Rxf3+ . However, the simple 36.Ke2 Qf2+ 37.Kd3 ends the threat, as the White king escapes.] 33...Qd7 34.Qe4 Qd6 35.Re5 Kg8 36.Rxa6 Qb4 37.Qd3 [I almost played 37.Rxc6?? since Qb1+ was impossible. However, I fortunately noticed that Black would have humiliated me with 37...Qe1# , so I chose to not lose immediately.] 37...Rxf3! A nice (and sound) last try for something by Tom. I almost had a heart

attack here, fearing I had missed something. Fortunately, that was not the case. 38.Ra8+ [During the game, I only considered 38.gxf3 Qe1+ 39.Qf1?? *(*However, White has *39.Kg2 Rg6+ 40.Qxg6 hxg6 41.Rxc6* White is completely winning, but even if I had seen all this, I still would have chosen the game continuation since I knew I still had a safe advantage, and I have let a lone queen destroy me in time pressure before, so I didn't want a repeat of those painful losses.*)* 39...Rg6+ 40.Kh1 Qxf1#] 38...Rf8 39.Rxf8+ Kxf8 [39...Qxf8 keeps the game going, but Black will still be suffering for awhile. After the game, Tom said he simply missed that I had a mate.] 40.Qf5+ Rf6 41.Qc8+ Kf7 42.Qe8# 1-0

Dalthorp, Matt (2039)
Donaldson, John W (2410) [B35]
3rd Frank Berry Memorial Stillwater (4), 19.05.2019
[Donaldson]
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 g6 5.Nc3 Bg7 6.Be3 Nf6 7.Bc4 Qa5 8.0-0 0-0 9.h3 d6 10.Bb3 Bd7 11.Nde2 [11.f4 or; 11.Re1 are more common but the text is not unknown.] 11...b5 12.a3
[12.Ng3 Rac8 13.f4 was Ramayrat-Donaldson, Reno 1986. Black could consider 12...Ne5.]
12...Ne5 13.Bd4
[Improving on 13.Nd5 Nxd5 14.exd5?! Nc4 15.Bxc4 bxc4≥ Villanueva-Silman, Las Vegas 1991.]
13...Nc6
[13...Nc4? 14.a4! Nxb2 15.axb5; I didn't like the looks of 13...Rac8 14.f4 Nc4 15.e5 but in retrospect 15...Ne8 looks playable.]
14.Be3 a6 15.Re1 Rac8 16.Nf4 Qd8 [16...Qc7 17.Ncd5 Nxd5 18.Nxd5 Qb7 was a decent alternative.] 17.Qc1 Na5 18.Ba2 Nc4 19.Bxc4 Rxc4 20.f3 Bc6 21.Qd2 Bb7 22.Rad1 Nd7 23.Nfe2 Nb6 [23...Ne5 24.Bh6 Qb6+ 25.Kh1 *(25.Kh2? Nxf3+)* 25...Rc7] 24.b3 Rc8 25.Bd4 Bxd4+ 26.Qxd4 Qc7 27.Rd2 Qc5 28.Red1 Qxd4+ 29.Rxd4 Rc5 30.R1d2
[30.a4 Rfc8 *(30...bxa4 31.Rb4)* 31.R1d3 Kf8]
30...Rfc8 31.R4d3

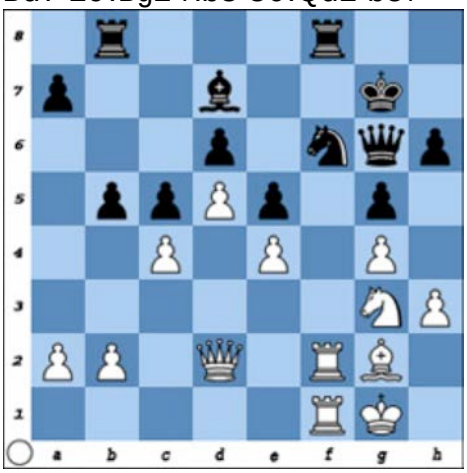
31...a5?

The hasty text throws away whatever small edge Black has but perhaps it was not that much. [31...g5 32.Kf2 Nd7 leaves more play.] 32.b4 axb4 33.axb4 Rc4 34.Nxb5 Rxb4 35.Rb3! Rxb3 36.cxb3 Ba6 37.Nbd4 e5 38.Nc2 Bxe2 39.Rxe2 Rc3 40.Rd2 Nc8 41.b4 f5 42.exf5 gxf5 [#] 43.f4! If Black were allowed to play ...f4 he might have something. Now the game fizzles out to a draw. 43...Kf7 44.Kf2 e4 45.Ne3 Ke6 46.g4 fxg4 47.hxg4 Ne7 48.f5+ Ke5 49.f6 Kxf6 50.Rxd6+ Ke5 51.Rh6 Ng6 52.Rh5+ Ke6 53.Rxh7 Ne5 54.Rh6+ Kf7 55.g5 Rb3 56.Rf6+ Kg8 57.Rb6 Rxb4 58.Rxb4 Nd3+ 59.Kg3 Nxb4 60.Kf4 Kg7 61.Nf5+ Kf7 62.Kxe4 Kg6 63.Kf4 Nd3+ 64.Kg4 Ne5+ 65.Kf4 Nd3+ ½ - ½

MORE GAMES FROM RRSO XVII

Graham-Bowcaster, Shaun (1800)
Heise, Russ (1696)
Red River Shootout XVII Davis, Oklahoma (2.6), 27.04.2019
[TB]
Shaun Graham provides the winning margin of victory for the OK team: 1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 d6 3.g3 e5 4.Bg2 Nbd7 5.Nf3 g6 6.d3 Bg7 7.h3 Nc5 8.Be3 Ne6 9.Qd2 0-0 10.Bh6 c6 11.0-0 Qc7 12.Rac1 b6 13.Bxg7 Kxg7 14.Ng5 Nxg5 15.Qxg5 h6 16.Qd2 Bb7 17.e4 Qe7 18.d4 Rad8 19.d5 c5 20.Ne2 Nh7 21.f4 f6 22.Rf2 g5 23.fxg5 fxg5 24.Bf3 Nf6 25.g4 Bc8 26.Ng3 Qe8 27.Qe2 Qg6 28.Rcf1

Bd7 29.Bg2 Rb8 30.Qd2 b5?

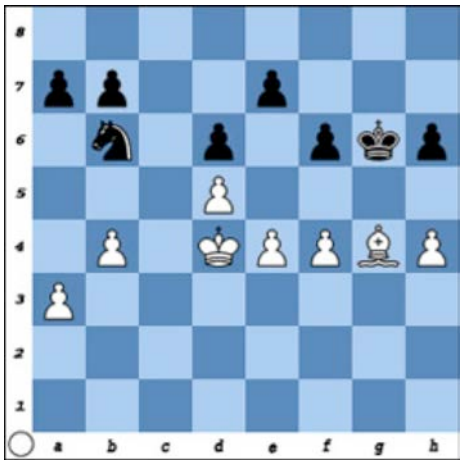


31.Qa5! [Also winning is 31.Rxf6 Rxf6 32.Nh5+] 31...bxc4 32.Qxa7 Rbd8 33.Qc7 Nh7 34.Rxf8 Rxf8 35.Qxd7+ Kg8 36.Nf5 Kh8 37.Qxd6 Qe8 38.Qxh6 Rf6 39.Qg7# 1-0

Zachare, Logan (1986)
Green, Austen (2250)
Red River Shootout XVII Davis, Oklahoma (2.1), 27.04.2019
[TB]
1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.g3 g6 4.Bg2 Bg7 5.d3 d6 6.f4 e6 7.Nf3 Nge7 8.0-0 0-0 9.Be3 As John Donaldson might joke, when 2200-players get their National Master certificate, they have to sign a pledge to use this setup against the Closed Sicilian opening by white. :-) I'm kidding, but not by much. Walter Browne always played this way, for example. It is flexible and if white attacks later with g2-g4 then ...f7-f5 will usually be black's reply with a good game. Meanwhile black expands on the queenside with activity that is hard for white to deal with, since it is supported by the Bg7. In fact, black scores more than white from this tabiya. 9...Nd4 10.Rb1 Rb8 [10...Qa5 11.a3 Nec6 is better for black.] 11.Ne2 Nxe2+ 12.Qxe2 b5 13.d4 cxd4 14.Bxd4 Qa5 15.Bxg7 Kxg7 16.b4 [Too ambitious. White should either play 16. a3 with equality or perhaps try for more by getting his Q centralized on d4, which here can be done with 16.Qf2 Qb6 *(16...Qxa2? 17.Qd4+ Kg8 18.Qxd6* is virtually winning for white.*)* 17.Rbd1 with perhaps a tiny edge for white.] 16...Qxa2 17.Ra1 Qc4 18.Qxc4 bxc4 19.Rxa7 Nc6 20.Rc7 Nxb4 21.Rxc4 Ba6 No doubt Logan had overlooked this move in his calculations back on move 16. 22.Rc7 Bxf1 23.Bxf1 Rbc8 24.Rd7 Rfd8 25.Rb7 Rb8 26.Rc7 h6 27.c3 Nc2 28.Bd3 Ne3 29.e5 Rbc8 30.exd6 Rxc7 31.dxc7 Rc8 32.Ne5 Rxc7 33.Kf2 Nd1+ 34.Ke2 Nb2 35.c4 g5 36.fxg5 hxg5 37.Nf3 g4 38.Nd2 f5 39.Ke3 Kf6 40.Bf1 Ke5 41.Be2 Rc8 42.Bd3 Kf6 43.Be2 e5 44.Bf1 Rh8 45.c5 Rc8 46.Nb3 Na4 0-1

Donaldson, John W (2410)
Dooley, Chris (1878) [B38]
3rd Frank Berry Memorial Stillwater (1), 18.05.2019
[Donaldson]
[Dooley has a lot of experience with the Accelerated Dragon, but it takes a lot of chutzpah to play it against the guy who wrote a book on it... TB]
1.Nf3 g6 2.e4 c5 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Bg7 5.c4 Nc6 6.Be3 d6 7.Nc3 Nf6 8.Be2 0-0 9.0-0 Nxd4 10.Bxd4 Bd7 11.Rc1 Bc6 12.f3 Qa5
[12...a5 followed by ...Nf6-d7 is the main line. The text is solid but passive. 13.b3 Nd7 14.Bxg7 Kxg7 15.Qd4+ Kg8 16.Rfd1 Qb6 17.Qxb6 Nxb6 18.Nd5 Bxd5 19.cxd5 Rfc8 20.Bb5 Rxc1 21.Rxc1 Rc8 22.Rxc8+ Nxc8 23.Kf2 is not the standard theoretical treatment but a line I have played often with good results on ICC including a win over 2700 GM Mamedov, but after this game I'm starting to think White's B vs. N plus space advantage is not really anything special.; 12...Nd7 is considered a mistake. 13.Bxg7 Kxg7 14.Qd4+ Kg8 15.b4 Qb6 16.Qxb6 Nxb6 17.e5 Rfd8 *(17...dxe5 18.b5 Be8 19.c5 Nd7 20.Nd5 e6 21.Ne7+ Kg7 22.c6 bxc6 23.bxc6 Nb6 24.c7±* 1-0 (40) Razuvaev-Honfi, Cienfuegos 1976*)* 18.exd6 exd6 19.Rfd1 1-0 (52) John Donaldson (2413) - Todd Andrews (2298), Pro Chess League 2007.]
13.Qd2 Rfc8 14.a3 Nd7?? 15.b4?? The text

was played instantly thinking the position was similar to the Razuvaev game, but it's not. Just a moment's reflection would have found: [15.Bxg7 Kxg7 16.b4 Qb6+ 17.c5 dxc5 18.b5+- winning a piece. The combination is typical and worth remembering. Note 18...c4+ 19.Kh1 Bxb5 20.Rb1 a6 21.a4 doesn't change anything.]
15...Bxd4+ 16.Qxd4 Qb6≤ 17.Qxb6
[17.Rfd1 is another try but objectively Black should be fine.]
17...Nxb6 18.Nd5
[18.Kf2 is another try. If 18...Be8 19.Nd5 Nxd5 20.cxd5 the pawn structure resembles Spassky-Petrosian from game 3 of their 1969 title match. In that game all the rooks were off but both pair of bishops remained. White tried to make something of his space advantage without success.]
18...Bxd5 19.cxd5
[19.exd5 Rc7 followed by ...Rac8 is fine for Black who has ...Nxd5 shots coming up. White should play 20.Rfd1 Rac8 21.Rd4] 19...Rxc1 20.Rxc1 Rc8 21.Rxc8+ Nxc8 22.Kf2
Now I have a similar ending to the one I referred to earlier (e.g. against Mamedov and others). 22...Kg7 [22...f5 is another option. Play might proceed 23.exf5 gxf5 24.Ke3 Kg7 25.Bd3 Kf6 26.Kd4 White has a small edge but how he realizes it is problematic.] 23.f4 Nb6 24.Ke3 Kf6 25.Kd4 [25.h4 is met by 25...h6] 25...g5 26.g3 gxf4 27.gxf4 h6 28.Bg4 Kg6 29.h4 f6



30.e5?
Black's last couple of moves were a little suspicious. Here 30.Bd1 followed by a3-a4-a5 was worth considering. 30...fxe5+ 31.fxe5 Na8 A good idea. The knight on c7 makes it hard for White's king to enter Black's position which is his major idea. 32.Ke4 Nc7 33.Be2 Ne8 34.Kf4 Nc7 35.h5+ Kg7 36.Ke4 Na8 37.Bg4 Nc7 38.Bd7 Kf7 39.Kf5 [#] 39...Na8?? The losing move. Instead [39...Kg7 followed by ...Kf7 holds. If White plays e6 then ...Kg7-h7 does the job as White's king is denied entry.] 40.Be6+ Kg7 41.Bc8 [41.exd6 exd6 42.Bc8 is stronger but the text is also winning.] 41...dxe5 42.Bxb7 Nb6 43.Kxe5 Kf7 [43...Nc4+ 44.Ke6 Kf8 45.Ba6 Nxa3 46.Bd3 traps the knight.] 44.Ba6 [#] 44...Nd7+ 45.Kd4 Kf6 46.Bb5 Nb6 47.a4 e5+ 48.Kc5 Ke7 49.d6+ Ke6 50.a5 Na8 [50...Nc8 51.d7 Nd6 and 52.d8 (N) is possible. White also has simpler ways to win.] 51.Bc6 1-0

51st Annual

JERRY SPANN MEMORIAL

July 13-14

OKLAHOMA CITY

See Page 20 for details...

UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS

For More Tournament Info Visit the USCF Tournament Site:
www.uschess.org/tlas/upcoming.php

June 15 ~~Metro Team Challenge~~ Edmond OK

CANCELLED. Will be rescheduled for early next year.

June 22-23 Missouri Class Championship Springfield MO

5-SS, G/115 d5. Location: Plaster Student Union. Rm 308, 1110 E. Madison St., Springfield, MO 65897. Prizes: 100% Guaranteed. Master/Expert: $500-1st, $300-2nd, $150-3rd; Class A, B, C, D, U1200: $300-1st, $150-2nd, $100-3rd in each section. Champion Plaque for winner of each section. Reg: 8:30-9:45; Rounds: Sat-10-2:30-7, Sun-10-2:30 EF: $35 pre-registered by 6pm 6/21. $40 on site. Email bdhowe@yahoo.com. Online Payment to www.paypal.me/mochess. Please include Name/USCFID/Section in the notes. Cash & Credit Cards accepted onsite. Free Entry to GM/IM. Max one ½-point bye; MCA required, O.S.A. Entries/Info: Bob Howe, 210 N. Olive St., Pacific, MO 63069, (636) 234.7928. Out of state players welcome.

June 29-30 OCA 74th Annual OKLAHOMA OPEN Tulsa OK

5-SS Trade Winds Central, 3141 E. Skelly Dr., (I-44, Exit 228) Tulsa, OK 74105, (918) 749-5561. 3 Sections: Open G$$ 500-300-200; Reserve (U1600) G$$ 250-150-100; Booster (U1000) $$ b/entries; Plaques & USCF recognized State Championship titles for OK resident section winners, including Top Senior (age 50+), in Open Section. EF: $45 if received by 6/24, otherwise $50, Booster Section $35, OCA membership included. Reg.: 8:30-9:30am Saturday. One 1/2 point bye in Rds. 1-4 only. Rds.: Sat 10-2-6; Sun 10 & 3. Contact: Charles Unruh, PO Box 340, Collinsville, OK 74021, 918-698-2308, georuh@gmail.com. More Info: http://www.uschess.org/tlas/upcoming.php?STATE=OK

July 13-14 51st Annual JERRY SPANN MEMORIAL Oklahoma City OK

5-SS, G/90;+30. Site: Residence Inn of OKC (North-Quail Springs) 13900 McAuley Blvd., OKC. (2 miles West of Quail Springs Mall on Memorial Road at Meridian Street). Reservation Discount Link here. Three Sections: Open, Reserve (U1800), Novice (U1200). EF: $40 if mailed by 5/14, $50 thereafter, FREE for Masters 2200+ (deducted from winnings). Prizes $$2250 (1st Prize Gtd. each section, rest b/56 paid entries) Open: $600(G)-250, X: 200, A: 200. Reserve (U1800): $250(G) C: 200 D: 200, Novice (U1200): $200(G), 1000/below: $150. Registration: 9-9:45am Sat 5/18. Byes: One ½-pt bye Rds. 1-5 if commit before Sat 9pm. Rounds: 10-2:30-7, 9-1:15. Entries to: Tom Braunlich, 7500 S. Birch, Broken Arrow, 74011. Inquiries: tom.braunlich@cox.net Web: www.ocfchess.org

July 19-21 KANSAS OPEN Wichita KS

5-SS. G/120;d5. Holiday Inn, 549 South Rock Rd., Wichita, KS. 3 sections: (7/20 and 7/21) 5SS, G/120 d5. Prizes: $2070 b/80 non-scholastic rate entries, Open(all): $350-250-150, U1900: $120. Reserve(U1800): $300-200-100, U16000: $75 Amateur (U1400): $250-150-75, U1200: $50. EF: $50 mailed by 7/13, $60 thereafter. Special EFs for scholastics – see website: Reg.: 7/20 8:00-9:30am. Rds.: 7/20: 10-2:30-7, 7/21: 9:30-2:00. KANSAS BLITZ CHESS: 1 section: (7/19), 5-double-round swiss system, G/5 d0. Prizes: $580 b/40 non-scholastic rate entries, $200-120-80, U2100 - $60, U1800 - $60, U1500/Unrated - $60. EF: $25 if mailed by 7/13, $35 thereafter. Reg.: 7/19 6-6:45pm. Rds.: 7:00, 7:30, 8, 8:30, 9. KANSAS BUGHOUSE: 1 section: (7/19) 4pm. (details- see website). HR: Holiday Inn reservation at 316-686-7131. Note- can pay by paypal or credit/debit card by link on website www.kansaschess.org flier Ent: Laurence Coker, 8013 W. 145th St., Overland Park, KS 66223. Make Checks payable to "Kansas Chess Association." – Ph: 913-851-1583, e-mail: wlcoker7@hotmail.com Details will be available at: http://www.kansaschess.org

Aug 17 / Aug 24 STEVE WHARRY "ConSat" CLASSIC Tulsa OK

4-SS with two traditional G/90+30 games played on each of two Consecutive Saturdays. Harvard Avenue Baptist Church, 3235 E. 17th St. (17th & Harvard), Tulsa, OK. **Three Sections:** Open, Reserve (U1800), Novice (U1200). **Prizes (b/30): Open:** 1st-$200, X: $100, A: $100. **Reserve:** 1st-$125, C: $100, D: $100. **Novice:** 1st $125. U1000/UNR: $100. More if entries allow. **REG:** Each day, 9:00-10:15am. Rounds: 10:30am – 3:00pm each day. BYES: Two ½-point byes for either day if you can't make it to one of the game days. Entry Fee: $30 for both days, $20 per day if you can only play one day. Adv. Entries via PayPal: www.paypal.me/Braunlich Adv. Entries by Mail: T.Braunlich, 7500 S. Birch Ave, B.A. OK 74011. Info: tom.braunlich@cox.net LS W. Free coffee and refreshments.

Sep 21 CENTER-STATE QUADS #2 Chandler OK

4-player round robins, with players grouped by rating (3 total games). 2nd annual event. Details TBA.

By IM John Donaldson

REVIEW OF TWO NEW BOOKS BY EVERYMAN CHESS

Intermediate players to masters (1800 to 2300) looking to improve their opening knowledge will find two new offerings by Everyman Chess (www.everymanchess.com) helpful.

The *Sicilian Najdorf* (2018, 352 pages, $29.95) by brothers John and Joshua Doknjas is a repertoire book on one of Black's best answers to 1.e4 based on a …e5 approach (against 6.Be2, 6.f4, 6.g3, 6.Be3, 6.f3) rather than Kasparov's preference for a Scheveningen treatment (6…e6).

The Najdorf has a reputation for being a theoretical monster. Indeed entire books have been written on single variations (6.Bg5 and 6.Be3), but the two young masters from British Columbia have done an excellent job of making this book accessible to the layman without dumbing things down. Model games, plenty of questions and answers and extensive explanatory prose throughout make this a terrific book to learn from for all but professional players.

Chigorin Defense Move by Move (2018, 336 pages, $29.95) by the Malaysian IM Jimmy Liew is devoted not to the main line of the Ruy Lopez (9…Na5) but the great Russian master's antidote to the Queen's Gambit, namely 1.d4 d5 2.c4 Nc6.

This is not an opening that is seen often at the top level. The only world-class players to have played the Chigorin consistently in the past have been Alexander Morozevich and more recently the rising Hungarian star Richard Rapport, who used it to win a sensational game against Levon Aronian in 2016, before switching to other defenses.

There is no Chigorin champion in 2019 among the 2700 club, but that hasn't stopped it from delivering good results for mortals as Liew shows in 61 well-annotated model games covering not only the Chigorin proper but also the related lines 1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bf4 and 3.g3. The latter has extra relevance as it can arise from 1.Nf3 d5 2.g3 Nc6 3.d4. Liew points out that the gambit line 3…Bg4 4.Bg2 Qd7 5.0-0 0-0-0 6.c4 dxc4 7.Nbd2!, as played by Radjabov and Caruana, is dangerous for Black who should give preference to 7…f6 than the more commonly seen 7…e5.

Against the anti-Chigorin line 1.d4 d5 2.c4 Nc6 3.e3 Black has preferred heading in to the Albin Counter-Gambit with 3…e5 4.dxe5 d4 and that is Liew's choice here as well.

Like the *Sicilian Najdorf*, *The Chigorin Defense Move by Move* will be helpful for all but titled players and even they will find some useful information.